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SOLVING THE "JAPANESE QUESTION"

DR. SCUDDER IN THE BOSTON HERALD

Dr. Sidney L. Gulick's proposals for solving the alien immigrant problem, with particular reference to the "Japanese question," has found vigorous response on the Atlantic seaboard. The Boston Herald of December 3 publishes a long letter from Dr. Doremus Scudder, now on the mainland in the work of the Committee on American Relations, urging extension of citizenship laws along the line of the "Gulick plan." The Herald editorially indorses the plan.

The Boston Herald publishes the following letter from Dr. Doremus Scudder, pastor of Central Union Church:

When in the early fifties Commodore Perry appeared in Yedo bay to lead Japan to open her doors, he found a people more hide-bound by race prejudice than perhaps any other on earth. Gently but firmly America took Japan by the hand and introduced her to the family of nations. At first Japan resented this, but later she recognized her debt of gratitude to the Republic of the West. From 1854 to 1905, America exhibited towards Japan the most cordial friendship and was recognized as her great teacher. Land of ideals as Japan is, the sentiment of gratitude there cherished gave birth to a depth of friendship which has no parallel.

In 1906, however, the San Francisco school excitement smote this sense of regard like a thunderbolt. At first Japan believed that this ebullition of feeling on our Pacific coast was merely a symptom of alien influence in America, complicated with the professionalism of labor agitators and the shrewd tactics of self-seeking politicians. Every means was taken to remove misunderstandings. Deputations came to America. Companies of American business men and others were invited to Japan. Lecturers visited the Japanese in the coast states to expound to them their duty. The imperial government cordially entered into the "gentleman's agreement" and has ever since not only kept its working men from coming to the United States, but has not allowed them to go to Mexico if they had relatives and friends in this country. No government has ever made more persistent endeavor to cultivate its neighbor's friendship.

The U. S. Response.
In response to this exhibition of courtesy, the first thing our country did was to send its Atlantic fleet to show that America possessed a mailed fist. Japan spent half a million dollars entertaining it as never a fleet of war vessels was entertained before. Next in Congress a lone voice was heard proclaiming the certainty of a war between the two nations. This was repeated by the press, caught up by army and navy officers in private discussion, echoed even by American educators of international repute, and has led to the publication, year after year, of the most baseless statements, such as Japan's ambitions in the direction of Mexico and the Magdalena bay canal, or that a large section of Hawaiian laborers are soldiers in disguise; that Japan has designs upon the Philippines or upon Hawaii, that the "gentleman's agreement" is systematically evaded on our northern and southern frontiers, and the like. This is accompanied by the publications of experiences with Japanese servants and farm hands on the Pacific coast. Thus the American people have become wrongly educated to distrust the Japanese.

At the same time, the sensational press of the Japanese empire has copied these American utterances and made the most of them to create dislike and distrust of the United States, until it has become the conviction of millions of the people there that Japan's next war must be with America, because America is determined to fight them. No one in either nation wants a war. The Japanese government and the more thoughtful classes cherish the warmest feelings of friendship for us, but they have exhausted every possible resource for removing American distrust, and they have failed.

The two nations are drifting into the very condition that made war in Europe inevitable. The essential love of ideals in both should bind them into the closest friendship. Both abhor war. Both love peace. Both have far more resemblances than differences. No immigrants, not even north Europeans, would make more loyal or useful citizens than the Japanese. But with the continuance of the present conditions and the present trend, war between the two countries is not impossible. Let some great injustice be done to Japanese, as is not unthinkable in view of the school affair of eight years ago or of last year's agitation on the Pacific coast, and the astute statesmen on both sides of the ocean may be powerless to stem the aroused passions of the populace. How to Mend Matters.

Something can be done to mend matters. That is the present task. These two nations are still in such a state of receptiveness that right action would cement both in bonds of friendship. Our press can mightily forward this by refusing to print statements calculated to arouse distrust. Our schools should use text books setting forth the truth concerning such mighty nations as Japan and China and the strong attractive features of their civilization. And most important of all, because most easily accomplished if backed by public opinion, we should as a nation no longer refuse to give the resident Japanese the power of self-defense implied in the privilege of naturalization. The Japanese is not allowed to make good here in the way that the Syrian or the Hungarian can, and other non-Aryan peoples. They are armed with the power of fellow citizenship. If we should give this privilege to the Japanese resident here, although few of them might fulfil the requirements, all Japan would be convinced that America is resolved not to discriminate against its people on the mere ground of race.

Hawaii's Position.
Hawaii can teach the rest of America as to the essential character of

the Japanese. Then anti-Asiatic legislation has put the nation in an unfortunate plight, but the chief fault is not with the state, but with the nation that continues to discriminate against Japanese by not granting to them the same privileges as other aliens. Thus, as Dr. Scudder shows, the remedy is simple. Congressional action allowing the Japanese residents to become naturalized on equal terms with Europeans, would solve the difficulty between the two countries and re-establish the old time relation of friendship. Few Japanese laborers could qualify. Our problems would be uncomplicated. California's face would be saved.

Meantime the extension of the privilege of naturalization to the Japanese should not be confused with the totally distinct problem of immigration. Like practically all Pacific coast citizens, Dr. Scudder believes in rigid restriction of Asiatic immigration. In the case of Japan this is ideally secured by the "gentleman's agreement," but a permanent policy of immigration that shall be free from irritating discriminations would be still better. Here Dr. Sidney L. Gulick's proposal of a small percentage basis of admission that shall bear heavily upon undesirable immigrants promises a solution. The Herald believes in this program of ending all racial discrimination by giving to resident Japanese the same privilege of naturalization granted to other aliens, and by enacting a uniform immigration law which shall exclude practically all Asiatics, restrict the coming of undesirable Europeans, and keep the door wide open to those peoples most ready to fuse into our common civilization.

Dr. Scudder's Status.
Of Dr. Scudder the Herald says: Dr. Scudder, the author of this article, spent five years in Japan as a medical missionary under the American board. There he lived in the far interior and came into very close relations with the common people. Subsequently, when called to Honolulu as superintendent of Japanese work under the Hawaiian board, he went to

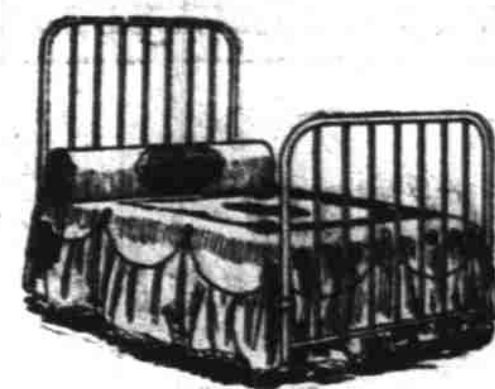
Japan a second time, and under the direction of the Japanese minister for home affairs, came into close touch with the families of emigrants to Hawaii, spoke to them in scores of Buddhist temples, and carried from them to the islands more than 3300 personal messages. To give these messages he visited nearly all the sugar plantations of Hawaii. For 10 years he has been editor-in-chief of the Friend, the oldest paper west of the Rockies. He is also minister of Central Union church in Honolulu, with over 1150 members, gathered from nearly 30 nationalities and representing more than 25 Christian denominations. Having made the questions of the Pacific his study for years, the Federal Council of Churches appointed him a member of its commission of 15 on American relations with Japan. Other members of its commission are Dr. John R. Mott, Dean Charles R. Brown of Yale; Prof. Jeremiah W. Jenks, Hamilton Holt, editor of the Independent; Robert E. Speer, President George R. Vincent of Minnesota University; Amos P. Wilder, former United States consul-general at Shanghai; Dr. Frederick Lynch, Prof. C. R. Henderson of Chicago University, Bishops McConnell and Hendrix, the Rev. Drs. F. M. North, W. I. Haven and A. G. Lawson. The special representative of this commission is Dr. S. L. Gulick, the author of the book, "The American Japanese Problem."

"BOY" SUPERVISOR TELLS SAN FRANCISCO OF LOCAL CONDITIONS

"We are all Republicans in Honolulu this year," said Ben Hollinger of the island city yesterday, says the San Francisco Chronicle. "The mayor, Joseph Fern, who has served several terms and is a Democrat, was succeeded by a Republican, and all the Board of Supervisors are Republicans." Hollinger is the boy member of the supervisors, and is making his first trip to California. He was born in Hawaii 25 years ago and has always lived there. On his first trip to San Francisco he is duly impressed with the city, its streets, police system, jail and various municipal departments. "I am looking for information, and I am getting lots of it," he said, in telling of what he is doing here. "I have seen the board of supervisors meet and they do things differently

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